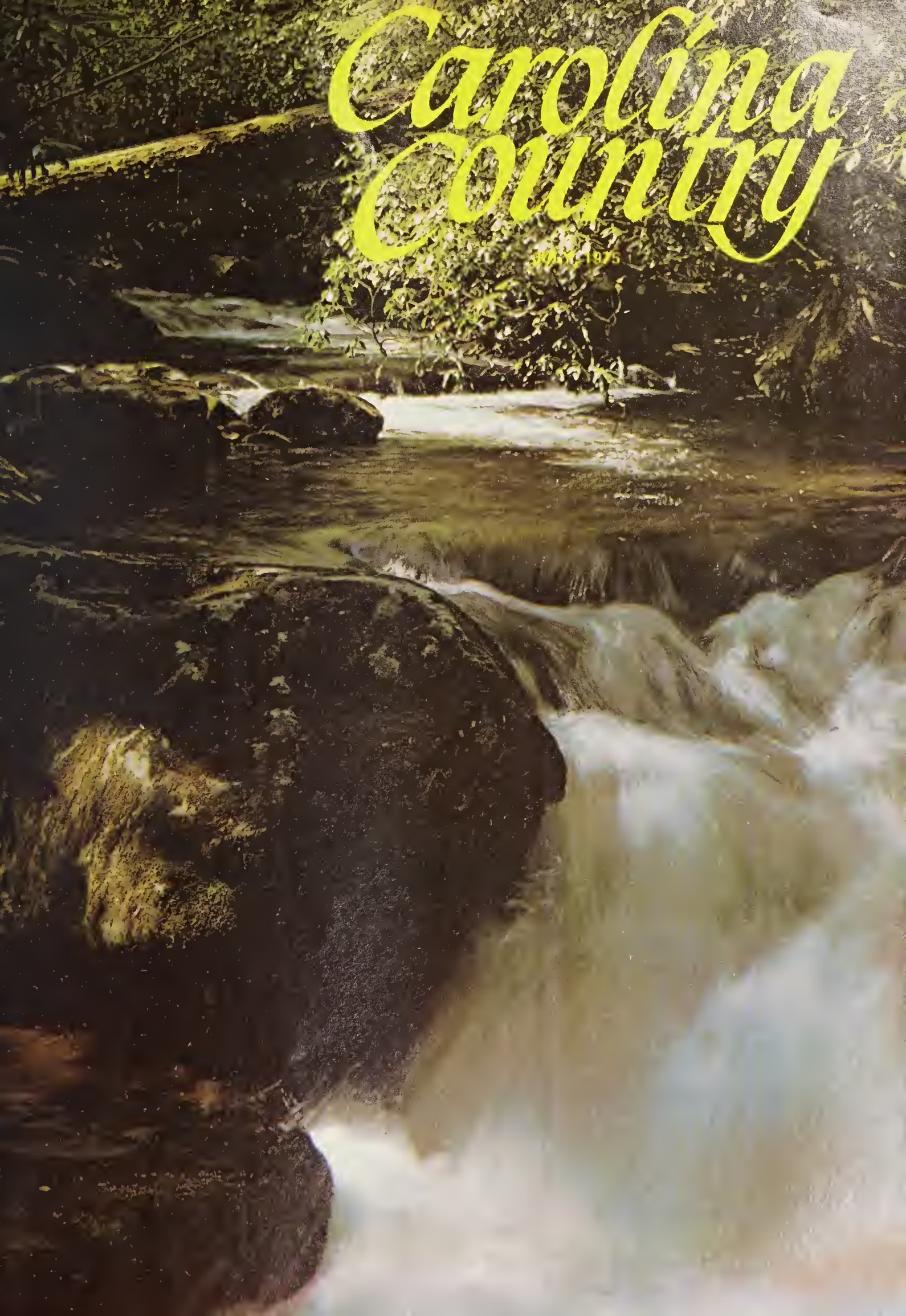
Carolina Country
1975

People

Mrs. Mayo (Clara) Tart of Rt. 3, Benson, county safety chairman of the Johnston Extension Homemakers Association and safety committee chairman of the Johnston County Farm Bureau, has won the state safety award from the N.C. Rural Safety Council.

Mrs. Sue Liverman of Roanoke Rapids, a health occupations instructor and coordinator at Roanoke Rapids High School, has been named winner of the 1975 Terry Sanford Award for creativity and innovation in education. The award was presented by the North Carolina Association of Educators at its annual convention. Mrs. Liverman was selected for the honor from amoung 15 district nominees.

The NCAE also honored **Benjamin F. Henderson,** assistant principal of Jefferson Junior High in Winston-Salem, presenting him with its first Human Relations Award. The award is designed to recognize an educator's efforts to "promote dignity and individual worth." Henderson was selected for the award from among 13 district nominees.

Gaston Small Jr. and **Bill Small,** owners of G.E. Small and Sons Farm near Elizabeth City, have received the State Commissioner of Agriculture Award for 1975.

E. Hughes Scott of Raleigh has been honored by the North Carolina Heart Association for volunteer service to the organization. He was presented the association's top award for volunteer work, the Silver Service Recognition Medallion.

Associate Editor Named

Spencer Carter of Raleigh, a free lance photographer and writer, has joined the staff of *Carolina Country* as associate editor.

A native of Elizabeth City, Carter has a degree in photojournalism from the University of Missouri. He has served as a photographer and writer for the public information office of Stephens College in Columbia, Mo. and is a former editor of the weekly "Buena Vista News" in Buena Vista, V

During a six-year stint in the Marine he served as a radio intelligence operat in Hawaii, Japan, Australia and Vietnam.

As a freelancer, Carter has done writing and photography work for various organizations and publications, including *Carolina Country*. He produced the "Carolina Country Towns" profiles which have been appearing in the magazine since February.

He is married to the former Lynda Napier of Richmond, Va. The Carters have one daughter.

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COVER — We are indebted to the State Travel and Promotions Division for the loan of color separations for this beautiful scene, which is featured on one of the state's travel posters. The photo was made by Ed DuPuy of Black Mountain on a little stream in the Nanthala National Forest.

In This Issue . . .

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Carolina Country

Read Monthly in More than 240,000 Homes.
Vol. 7 No. 7 July, 1975

A GRATEFUL TOAST

The Revolutionary War pamphleteer Thomas Paine once wrote: "It is at all times necessary . . . that we frequently refresh our patriotism by reference to first principles. It is by tracing things to their origin that we learn to understand them, and it is by keeping that line and that origin always in view that we never forget them."

As the United States moves fully into the celebration of its 200th birthday next year, the nation can certainly use a dose of Paine's prescription for renewed patriotism.

The celebration itself — from the festivals and historic re-enactments to the diverse programs promising to improve the quality of life in the future — may indeed be just what the doctor would order for a nation suffering the agony of a collective guilty conscience.

The dual "national nightmares" of Watergate and Vietnam may be over, but the nation has yet to emerge from the long shadows of those dark and dreadful experiences.

The guilt which all Americans must share because of those experiences can be assuaged only by the passage of time. However, a nationwide birthday party could serve as a sort of sober Irish wake in honor of our departed "nightmares."

The country has withstood the devisiveness of an unpopular war and survived, our national unity searred but not destroyed. In that, we can rejoice.

Our system of governmental checks and balances has withstood a ravaging test and remains intact, reaffirming its effectiveness two centuries after its inception. In that, we can find a source of faith in the nation and its heritage.

It would seem that the country's 200th birthday arrives at a time when Americans can look back to their nation's origin and toast it with gratitude.

Perhaps doing so will leave us all refreshed in spirit and girded by a new sense of confidence about our nation and its future.

rural electric Notebook

POWER SHORTAGES PREDICTED

What do Marvin Wooten, chairman of the State Utilities Commission, Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb, and a nationwide alliance of public and private power generating utilities have in common?

All three are predicting severe power shortages across the nation within the next decade.

Wooten recently expressed his fears about the energy shortage, saying the construction cutbacks now planned by CP&L and Duke Power could mean that by 1984 "every time you flip the switch, the light might not come on."

He said consumer demands for lower rates will force slowed expansion by the power companies which could make them unable to meet future power demands. "The so-called consumer advocates will be before the Utilities Commission in 1984 saying 'You shouldn't have listened to us 10 years ago.' "

Frank Zarb said the nation may be "in a power shortage position" within the next five years if the economy makes a reasonable recovery. Rationing of power for some industrial users might become necessary in the early 1980s, he added.

Meanwhile, these bleak forecasts were matched by a report from the National Electric Reliability Council, an organization of public and private power suppliers which oversees interconnecting arrangements among the various systems. The purpose of these power supply "grids" is to facilitate a free flow of energy from one system to another if needed.

The Council's report concluded that power shortages may hit most of the nation by as early as 1978. Such a situation, it said, could lead to "so form of rationing or planned power supply curtailment."

Its estimates for the nation's power requirements indicate there could be adequate energy for the next decade - but only if the economy and its energ demand remain depressed. Economic recovery without a reversal of the trend to cut back power plant constru ion would bring the threat of browno and blackouts everywhere except the western states, the report noted.

RISING ELECTRIC RATES

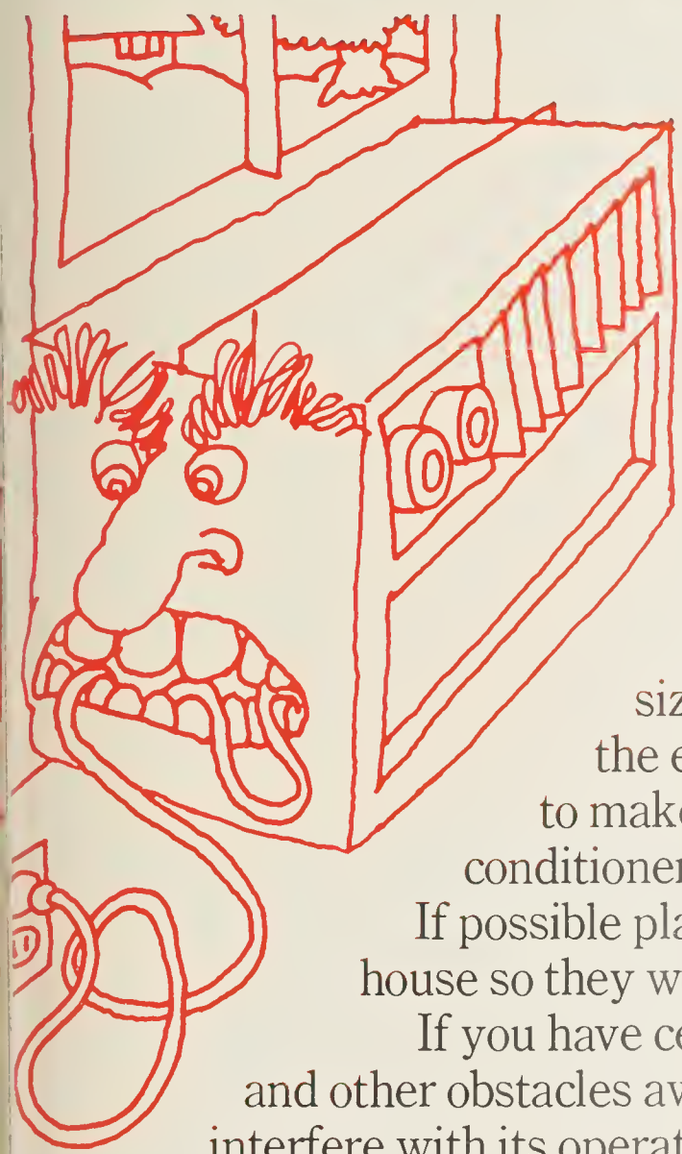
U.S. electric rates may be the highes in the world by the end of the 1970s, according to a survey of electric cos for industrial and large commercial users in Europe, North America, Austra and South Africa.

The survey, which was conducted by th National Utility Service, Inc., showe that costs of the nation's 15 largest electric utilities had risen 61.3 per between June, 1973, and December, 197 The only larger increases in that per were reported in Belgium, up 85.4 per and Italy, up 83.3 percent.

By contrast, the increases were much lower in some countries: Canada - 28 percent; Netherlands - 14.6 percent; Australia - 6 percent.

- Owen Bishop

IF YOU NEGLECT YOUR AIR CONDITIONER NOW YOU'LL PAY FOR IT ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL THIS SUMMER.



Nothing eats precious electricity like a dirty, inefficient air conditioner. So before you turn it on, we urge you to check it out.

First, be sure to check the filters. If they're dirty, clean them, or replace them, according to the manufacturers' instructions. Clean the baffles, too, but be sure not to damage the evaporator coils or fins.

If you're planning to buy a new air conditioner, make sure you buy the right size for the area you want to cool. And check the efficiency rating listed on all new models to make sure you're getting the most efficient air conditioner (the higher the EER number, the better.)

If possible place window units on the shady side of the house so they won't have to work so hard to keep you cool.

If you have central air conditioning, keep leaves, grass and other obstacles away from the outdoor condenser or they'll interfere with its operation.

And last, but not least, if your air conditioner is getting old and you think it might need some professional attention, by all means get it. The money you spend now may save you many dollars on your electric bill during the long, hot summer.

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation EMC

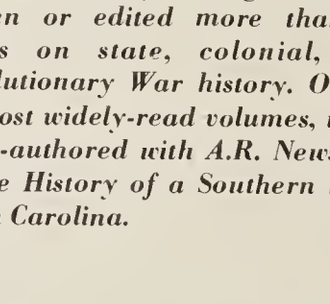
FIRST IN FREEDOM

By Cindy Secrest

Was North Carolina actually "First in Freedom," as the state's controversial automobile license plate slogan proudly proclaims?

For an answer to that question, CAROLINA COUNTRY turned to Dr. Hugh T. Lefler, Kenan Professor Emeritus of History at UNC-CH, who is regarded as one of the best living authorities on Tar Heel history.

He taught for 50 years prior to his retirement two years ago and has written or edited more than 20 books on state, colonial, and Revolutionary War history. One of his most widely-read volumes, which he co-authored with A.R. Newsome, is The History of a Southern State, North Carolina.



North Carolina's controversial claim as "First in Freedom" may be valid, according to noted historian Dr. Hugh T. Lefler. "There has been some criticism in calling ourselves first in freedom, but actually, I think this claim can be substantiated to some extent. However, I don't like the term, first *in* freedom — I don't know exactly what that means."

A prolific historian, Lefler feels that North Carolina's history — like that of every state — is full of many myths. "There are certain things in the history of this state which people like to believe, but you just can't prove." He feels that one must be wary of using the word "first" when referring to history, because one nearly always finds something that happened earlier.

According to Lefler, North Carolina's role in the freedom movement is marked by four major events during the Revolutionary period, each of which was instrumental in moving the state — and even the entire nation — along the road toward independence.

They were:

The First Provincial Congress, August 25, 1774 in New Bern. This session, which lasted only a couple of days, was the first meeting in America held independently of the governor. Seventy-one men met and adopted a r olution criticizing the royal governme declaring that taxation by Parliame was illegal; supporting Massachusetts its opposition to the crown; agreeing to import or export, or consume a British products; and electing three de gates to the Continental Congress. Th according to Lefler, "the First Provinc Congress fully launched North Caroli into the Revolutionary movement."

The Mecklenburg Resolves, whi resulted from a meeting held on M. 31, 1775 in Charlotte. This docume reflects a strong spirit of independe which apparently was evident in t Mecklenburg area during that time. T Lefler-Newsome history offers this a count of the Resolves: "According to June, 1775, newspaper account, a me ing was held in Charlotte on May 31 which a set of Resolves was adopted d claring that all commissions granted the King in the colonies were 'null a void' and calling upon the people Mecklenburg to meet and elect milita officers who should hold their power 'i dependent of Great Britain.' Any pers accepting office from the crown was d clared to be 'an enemy to his country.'"

Lefler does not believe a Mecklenbu Declaration of Independence was adop

North Carolina During The Revolution

It was during the colonial era that North Carolina emerged as a state "characterized by small farms and small towns," said historian Dr. Hugh T. Lefler.

"North Carolina was settled fairly early. It grew slowly at first, then very rapidly — more rapidly than any other colony in the latter part of the colonial period." The chief industry was tar pitch, turpentine, and naval stores. The state's nickname, 'Tar Heel', grew out of that early industry. England badly needed tar from North Carolina and took drastic steps to try and guarantee that its supply of naval stores would not be cut off."

North Carolina existed for its first fifty years without a single town. No other colony did that. The first town was Bath, New Bern, second, and Edenton, third — all located in the important coastal region.

New Bern was the capital during Governors Tryon and Martin. Governor Martin was the last royal governor at New Bern, and when he left in 1775, the safety committees took over and governed the state. North Carolina didn't have another governor until 1777 when Richard Caswell became the first governor of the public state, through a provision for election in the Constitution of 1776.

One of the greatest differences between the Revolutionary period and today is communication, Lefler pointed out. Because people were so spread out in ru areas, communication was painful slow back then. This created much co fusion and uncertainty among the peo who did not know their leaders and we unaware of much of the political ha penings.

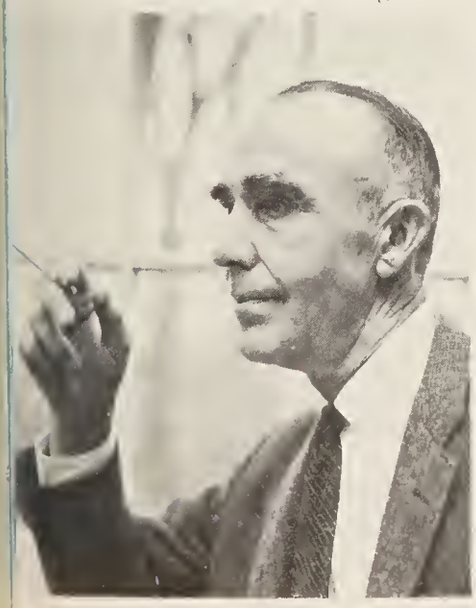
Transportation was also extreme slow. A person traveling overland stagecoach averaged about twenty mil per day. Very few people other tha aristocrats and politicians could affo to travel. Water travel was cheaper, there was more moving about in t Eastern coastal regions. For the mo part, however, the average Tar He probably lived his whole life in t county in which he was born, accordi to Lefler.

ed on May 20, 1775. The only account of it was written years later, in 1819, from the memory of John McDivitt Alexander, who was then quite an old man. He was probably confused by a change which was made in the calendar in the 1750's, Lefler said.

The Battle at Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776. This small but significant Revolutionary battle in North Carolina was a confrontation between the Whigs and the Tories, who sympathized with Great Britain. During the battle, according to Lefler-Newsome, "The Whigs removed much of the bridge's flooring and greased the log sleepers with soft soap and tallow. This confused the Tories and made the crossing extremely difficult." This overwhelming Whig victory was applauded throughout the colonies, but the British press either ignored or minimized its significance.

The Halifax Resolves which mark the first *State* action for independence. This document was drawn up April 12, 1776, at the meeting of the Fourth Provincial Congress in Halifax. It called for the colony's delegates to the Continental Congress to be impowered "to concur with the delegates of the other colonies in declaring Independence and forming foreign alliances, reserving to this colony the sole and exclusive right of forming a Constitution and laws for this colony, and of appointing delegates from time to time (under the direction of a general representation thereof), to meet the delegates of the other colonies for such purposes as shall be hereafter pointed out."

Lefler emphasizes that these Halifax Resolves were "not a declaration for North Carolina alone, but a recommendation to the Continental Congress as their representative." Within a few months, the Declaration of Independence was approved by Congress and the new nation was established.



Dr. Hugh T. Lefler

In addition to these four major events, another Revolutionary "first" for North Carolina was the Edenton Tea Party. This occasion is significant because it marked the first political meeting of women in America. This "tea party" was held in October, 1774, almost a year after the Boston Tea Party. Fifty-one women, led by Penelope Barker, met and agreed to demonstrate their support for the Continental Congress by boycotting tea.

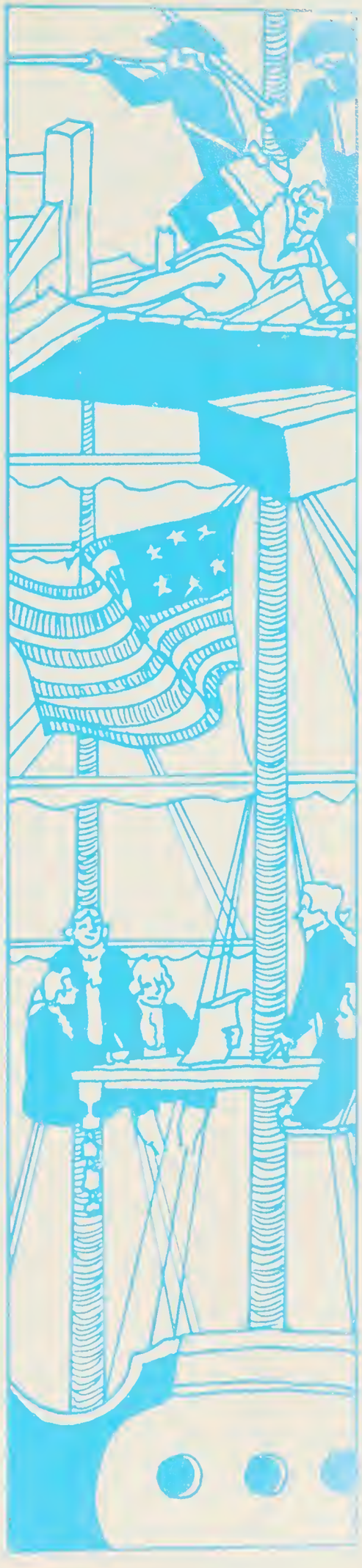
Actually, North Carolina didn't make as substantial a contribution to the Revolution as many of the other colonies, Lefler said. This was mostly due to the sharp division in the state between Whigs and Tories — a division which cannot be pinpointed to specific classes. In most colonies, the rebels were the riff-raff, but in Virginia, the Revolutionary leaders were such aristocrats as Jefferson and Washington.

North Carolina had more outstanding leaders during the Revolutionary period than any other, except during the 1830's, the retired professor believes.

Cornelius Harnett emerged as a leader of the committees that were established to run North Carolina after Governor Martin fled. Harnett was a strong force behind the Provincial Congress and helped to develop the Halifax Resolves. During the War, Harnett was captured and taken to Wilmington, where he died a prisoner of war.

Lefler said, "Willie Jones (pronounced Wiley) was an outstanding leader of what we'd call the Democrats — he was called 'Father of Jeffersonian Democracy'. He was an aristocrat, but a leader of the common people. His brother, Allen Jones, was a leading champion of the other group." Many families experienced divided loyalties during this period.

James Iredell was probably the most outstanding Tar Heel during this time. He came to this country, a lad of seventeen, and assumed duties as deputy collector of the Port of Roanoke, which is presently Edenton. He was eventually made collector of the court. George Washington appointed him to the first U.S. Supreme Court. Lefler feels that the "best known thing about Iredell was the Supreme Court decision in which he stated that a state could not be sued by another state except by sole consent. This became the basis of the eleventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States."



The Carolina Homemake

A Taste of the Past

By Brenda Sargent

The colonial kitchen was often the heart of the home, and it's little wonder since the lady of the house, and possibly her servants, spent most of their time there.

Colonial cookery was a daily test of endurance, strength, patience and memory — a far cry from the convenient task of today's cooks.

Most of the cooking was done over an open fire or in dutch ovens buried among hot coals. It was prepared in heavy iron kettles and pots and sometimes with copper and brass utensils.

The cooking of this period in North Carolina was chiefly English with native ingredients adapted to taste. Jeremy North writes in a foreword to a charming little book of colonial North Carolina recipes, **A Tryon Palace Trifle**, published by the Tryon Palace Commission, that "what strikes one at once, upon reading through these fascinating recipes, is that English cooking was far more savory and versatile in the 18th Century than it was in the 19th or is today."

What one notes immediately is the extensive use of spices, herbs and wine — and the devotion given to preparing and e ing these recipes.

North states that "in the 18th Century those who survi Childbirth and the continually rampant killing Diseases s as Diphtheria, Typhoid and Smallpox, were bound to h pretty sound Constitutions — and the ability to cope handso ly with such awesome Dishes as here follow.

"But of course our 18th Century Ancestors had to take ple of exercise, were rarely bored, had never heard of Germs Viruses, were in blissful ignorance of Neuroses and Psyc analysts, and could in consequence fully enjoy the Delight eating and drinking these marvelous Concoctions."

The recipes which follow, are taken from **A Tryon Pal Trifle** and are a selection of household recipes from previou unpublished manuscript of the middle eighteenth centu The manuscript is now housed in the Housekeepers Roon Tryon Palace in New Bern.

If you are brave of heart, perhaps you will enjoy tacklin few of these recipes, inspite of the whimsical spelling and l of punctuation.

To Make A Dish of Cutlets

Take a Strate Loyne or Neck of Mutton & cutt it into Large Stakes, flat them with ye Cleaver, then Season them with peper, Salt and a few shreed (shredded) hearbs; Lett them lye half an hour, then have yonr gridiron ready & very clean, lye a white paper over it, then lay your Stakes upon ye paper to broyle before ye fire, droping them over with fresh Butter, and turn them, when they are near Enough drop them and froth them, with dridging (dredging) fine bread grated and flower, then being froth'd (topped or basted) with Butter at ye last have ye Sauee made with a little Cashop (Ketchup), or Strong Broth, or Gravy & a little Oyster pickle and Vinegar, an anchovy, and a few shreed Capers and Lemon; Season it with Salt to your tast, haveing but one broyle on ye fire with an onion stuck with Cloves; Dish your Sauee, then lay your Meat upon it, Garnish your dish with Oysters, Cockles, Girkings or any sort of Pickled Sallets (Salads); so serve it up as hott as yon can. If you please you may half fry ye Stakes before you broyle them, and save ye Gravy to put in ye Sauee.

A Salmon Pye

Take a convenient piece of fresh Salmon, 2 quarts of Shrimps or prawns, & ye like quantity of Oysters, Half a quarter of an Ounce of whole Mace, ye like of Beatton Pepper, & 4 Anchovies, Spread Your Pye Bottom with a good piece of Butter, then lay in your Salmon, first Laid 3 or 4 hours in white Wine, then Strane your Seasonings upon it, lay good Store of Butter on ye Topp then cover it & Bake it.

To Stew Oysters

Take ye great Oysters with their Liquor, a pinte of White Wine, Anchovies, A little whole Pepper & Mace, a Shallott, or 2, Lett them Stew a quarter of an hour, then Stew in a good piece of Butter and serve them up with Sippets (small, thin pieces of bread mixed with milk or broth).

To Make A Rice Pudding to Bake

Take 3 pints or more of New Milk, and put therein a quarter of a pd of Rice washed Clean and picked, then Sett them over ye fire and lett them cree (to soften by boiling) together often Stiring it with a wooden Spoon, because it will not Scrape to hard at ye Bottom to make it burn then lett it boyle till very thick, then take it of (off) and Sett it to Cool; then put in a little Salt, & Some Beatten Spice, Some Rasings & Currans Some Marrow or Beef Suet, Shred very Small then Butter Your pan and bake it but not too Much.

To Make Oat Cakes

Take what quantity of flower you please, let one part be Oat Meal well Searced (sifted) through a Hair Sive, then take Eggs, new barm (new yeast), Milk but let it be warm mix ye same to ye Stiffness of an ordinary pnding Sett it to ye fire to rise, and so bake it, you must put in about a pinte of Yeast if you please, 4 or 5 Eggs, to a quarter of a Peck of flower and some Nutmeg for them that like it, and Currans.

A Frigase of Rabbits

Take them and Cut them in little pieces, & Wash them, to a Cuple, take a quarter of a pd (lb.) of Butter, and Melt it in a Saucepan, and when it is very hott power (pour) it on your Rabbits, & some Lemon Pill & a little Oring, lett it Stew till Enough. Stir it some times, then take Some Strong Broth and Cutt a few Musherams into it, & one Anchovie, & grate a little Nutmegg, & put all to your Rabbits, with a bunch of Parsaly, & Time, then thicken it up 2 yolks of Eggs, beat in a little White Wine and Dridg on a little flower, you must not let it boyle after ye Eggs is in, but only stir it a little, have ready broyled bits of Bacon, and lay upon it, and when it is in ye Dish & Sliced Lemon, & Garnished with Pickles.

To Make A Turkalett

Take a pd of Rice and boyle it very tender, Strain it into a Cullender, let it drain well, then beat it well in a Morter & put to it ye Yolks of 8 or 10 Eggs; and Season it with Peper, Salt & Nutmeg; put in a little grated Bread, and a little thick Butter and beat or work it well together then take 2 Chickens, flea (Archaic English to flay off the skin) them and cut them in quarters and break ye bones; Brown a piece of Butter Gold Culler, thicken it with a little flower and toss up the Chickens and put some broth to them, and Stew them till 3 parts ready, then take a flat Saucepan, or petty pan, Butter it well and lye in half your Rice like a sheet of past, then put in some heads of Asparagrass or green pease, first lye a few shivs (slices) of Bacon very thin, then lye a Sweet Bread slieed and some Yolks of hard Eggs Splitt, put in a scalded Lettuce cut in quarters, lye on your Chickens, put over some Butter, and then wash over ye Edge of your Rice with ye Yolk of an Egg, and put over ye other half and close it and bake it; when done turn ye bottom upwards, cut a little hole, put in some good gravy, thick Butter, ye Juce of an Oringe and Serve it up hott.

To Make the Best Ginger Bread

Take a dozn of ye finest Manchets (a small loaf of fine white bread), 5 quarts of Mallago Sack (a white wine resembling sherry), one quart of Brandy 8 pd of Brown Snger 3 quarters of a pd of Cinamon 3 quarters of a pd of Annaseeds (Anise seeds), 2 ounces of Nutmeggs, 2 ounces of Cloves, 2 pd of Liquoras, one pd of Ginger, one pinte of Annaseed Water, one Gill of Cinamon Water; ye Mannar of making it. Slice ye Bread thin and Sett it in a pretty hott Oven to dry, then beat it in a Morter and put it thro a Tiffany (a very thin silk or sieve), take ye Sack and Brandy and Sett it over ye fire, in Such a pan as will hold all ye Ingrediance, then put ye Sugar to it and Clarify it, & have ready all ye Spices finely beat with ye Seeds, and Stir them into ye Sack, with Continuall Stiring, then Shiver (to slice or add in small slices) in ye Bread, Only leave out as much as will work it up, then after it is boyled a little, putt in Your Annaseed Water, and when it is so Stiff you can Stir it no more, but a little before put in your Cinamon Water, then Spread a Clean Sheet on ye flower Strow Some of ye bread crumbs upon it, take it out of ye pan and lay it on ye Sheet, and work it up as you do brown bread, when well wrought you must weigh it into such quantity as you will make your Rowles for Bigness then all hands to work, so work it up very Sure, and work it Either into Rowls or Bread, as you like, it will keep 7 year, it must be not in a Moist place, nor over dry.

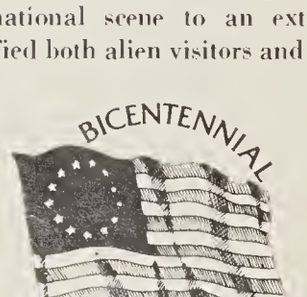
In Colonial Era

Chawin' and Spittin' Popular

Visitors to the gallery of the Senate will find that this nation's most august deliberative body has, in a corner to the spectators' right, a cuspidor, a relic from the days when the Colonists lustily embraced a New World discovery — tobacco.

Even the halls of Congress were not immune to the effects of "chawin, 'n spittin' ", or the signs of men with tobacco plugs bulging their pockets and yellow stains marking their shirts. Dr. Alexander Hamilton reported that he had made a day's journey with an old codger in new Jersey who ". . . spoke not a word all the way but coughd and chawd tobacco."

As chewing gained favor among farmers, storekeepers and the upcountry lawyers and printers who led the jacksonian generation, tobacco juice fouled the national scene to an extent that horrified both alien visitors and abstaining Americans. Tobacco chewing was the one thing more than any other that caused tidy Europeans to label the new nation "barbaric."



Tales of long range and acnracy in spitting were generally more legendary than truthful. Care to consistently hit the sandbox or cuspidor was considered nnecessary. Even unmanful. No matter how plentiful snch targets were in steamboats, saloons, hotel lobbies, railroad cars, courtrooms or domestic sitting rooms, the nation's carpets were literally soggy.

By 1860, a full nineteen-twentieths of the tobacco processing in Virginia and North Carolina, where the industry centered, was of chewing tobacco.

This variously admired and detested farm prodnct had its origin with the Indians, who nsed it for medicinal, ceremonial and pleasurable purposes. Nearly all the Indian tribes of the two Americas nsed tobacco, in pipes, as snuff or cigars. Among some of the tribes, in fact, tobacco was so highly prized that the men worked at growing it, leaving the women and children to tend the lesser crops.

Tobacco played a very important role in the development of many southern states. In Virginia especially, tobacco growing became the economic backbone of the colony. Tobacco was not on chewed, smoked and sniffed, it was a used as money. In 1732, Maryland ma it legal tender, and the salaries clergymen and state officers were actua ly paid in tobacco at the rate of a pen a pound.

Before the colonists learned about s husbandry, tobacco culture was almo as hard on the land as it was on t nation's carpets. As fields wore out, t bacco growers moved west, leaving ba ren lands behind where even wee fonnd little foothold. Wind and ra eroded what little topsoil remained once fertile fields, and scrubrush a pine took over.

Virginia maintained its lead tobacco culture nntil about 1860, b Kentucky was close behind. Oh Tennessee and Missouri had likewi made considerable advances in tobac acerage by the time the Civil War erup ed.

While the South continues to be t country's leading tobacco area, it is no means the only source of tobac Northern states like Pennsylvania, Co necticnt and Massachnsetts also produ the crop, and in recent years, Wiscons has grown more tobacco than ev Maryland.

An American Success Story

The chronicles of agricultural productivity — fewer and fewer farmers producing greater amounts of food for more and more people — is a success story unparalled in U.S. History.

From 100 percent of the original settlers working the land for their own survival to the present total of less than 5 percent of the U.S. population engaged in farming to feed the remainder of the country and a sizable part of the world. It's a story of amazing agricultural statistics.

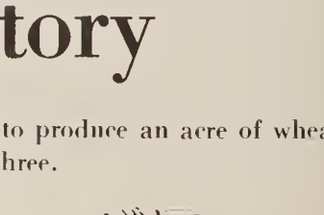
At the time of the Revolution, more than 90 percent of the population of the new nation was still engaged in farming.

By 1820, the percentage of farmers had dropped to some 83 percent and about 60 manhours of labor were needed to produce an acre of wheat.

Gradually, the number of Americans in agriculture continned to slip nntil by 1870 farmers were no longer in a majority in the U.S. By then, only 47 percent of the country's population could be classified in agriculture.

The number of farmers dwindled further and by 1910 only a third of the growing population was in agriculture.

With only 21 percent of the population in farming in 1930, total manhours required to produce an acre of wheat fe to just three.



In the 1950's, the farming populatio dipped to less than 15 percent and con tinuing declines reduced that percentag to less than 5 presently. But agricultura production maintained its upward clim and outpnt per manhour jumped som 3½ times in the past two decades.

Carolina Country invites you to Fly the Flag for the Bicentennial.

We invite our readers to take part in the greatest show of colors this country has ever seen. We are proud to take part in this national campaign sponsored by the U.S. Bicentennial Society to restore the flag to a place of respect and honor it deserves.

To encourage you to fly the flag, we have arranged for you to purchase a complete Bicentennial Flag Kit for only $8.95, including handling and shipping. The large quantities of flags involved makes this possible. Order the 50-Star Bicentennial Flag with the special Fly the Flag coupon. Also available: 13-Star Betsy Ross Flag and the Bennington '76 Flag. Your flag will be sent directly to your home at no additional charge.

Each flag is crowned with the golden Double Eagle top ornament, symbol of the Bicentennial. Matching goldenized 6ft., two-piece, steel pole. Heavy-duty flag – 3 x 5 ft. – with double-stitched stripes, canvas heading and brass grommets. Complete with sturdy metal wall-mount bracket, 3 mounting screws, rope halyard, mounting instructions, and self-storage corrugated box.

With each flag kit you also receive your own full color parchment certificate, verifying your participation in the Fly the Flag for the Bicentennial campaign. Each certificate bears the 50-Star Flag, the golden Double Eagle, the names of the trustees and your own registry number. The ideal keepsake of the Bicentennial, suitable for framing and display in home or office.

U.S. BICENTENNIAL SOCIETY
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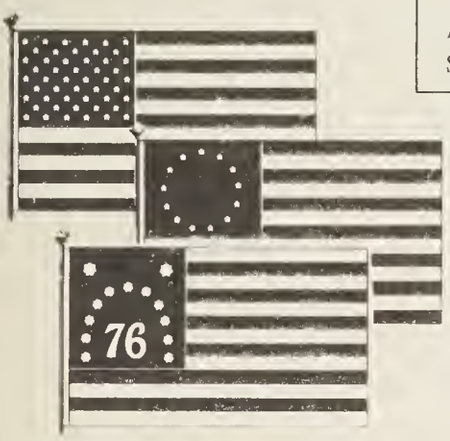
Virginius Dabney, Chairman
Alistair Cooke — Gregory Peck
Samuel Eliot Morison — R. Buckminster Fuller



The Bicentennial 50-Star Flag. $8.95.

Betsy Ross
This 13-Star Flag was officially adopted by Act of Congress, June 14, 1777. $8.95.

Bennington
The flag carried in the historic Battle of Bennington. $8.95.

Bicentennial/Flag Bumper Strip
Full color. Pressure sensitive.
$ .50 each.

"The History of the United States Flag" Book
From the Revolution to the present, including a quide to its use and display. Beautiful full-color illustrations and photographs, 190 pages.
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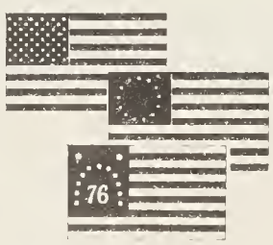
Bicentennial Lapel Pin
Enameled in full color.
$1.00 each.

50-Star Lapel Pins
Enameled in full color.
$1.00 each.



Flag Window Sticker
Pressure sensitive. Applies to inside glass. Choice of 50-Star, Betsy Ross, or Bennington '76 Flag.
$ .35 each.

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c/o U.S. Bicentennial Society
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Flag Window Sticker(s) @$.35 (any 3 for $1)				
50-Star Lapel Pin(s) @$1.00				
Bicentennial Lapel Pin(s) @$1.00				
Illustrated Flag History Book(s) @$3.95				
Bicentennial/Flag Bumper Strip(s) @$.50				

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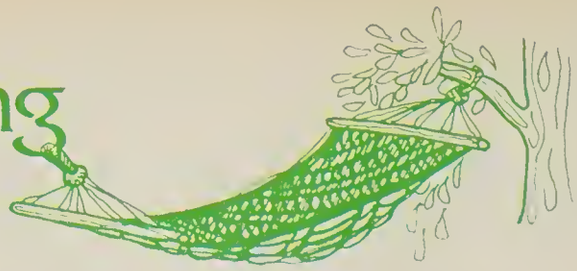


How to Understand and Handle Billing Errors

Errors on your bills? How do they occur? If your credit statement is wrong, it may be due to billing time lag, observe extension family resource management specialists.

Several days will elapse between the time your statement is prepared and the day you receive it, the specialists note. This period may be five days or longer, and this is the billing time lag. Any purchases or payments made during this period will not be on your current statement.

Check the billing date on the statement if you receive a bill on which your last payment hasn't been recorded. Compare that date and the date your check prob bly received. The omission may be cause of billing time lag, and if so, "mistake" is only temporary.

If time lag isn't the cause, check make sure you aren't the cause. D another person in your family have cess to the same credit account? If so, may not have recorded all the charges the account. Check with family memb first to be sure there were no charges which you weren't aware.

Another cause of billing discrepanc is a returned check. Checks are not ways returned because of insuffici funds. You may have failed to sign it failed to name a payee.

Stores make errors too. Here is h they may occur:

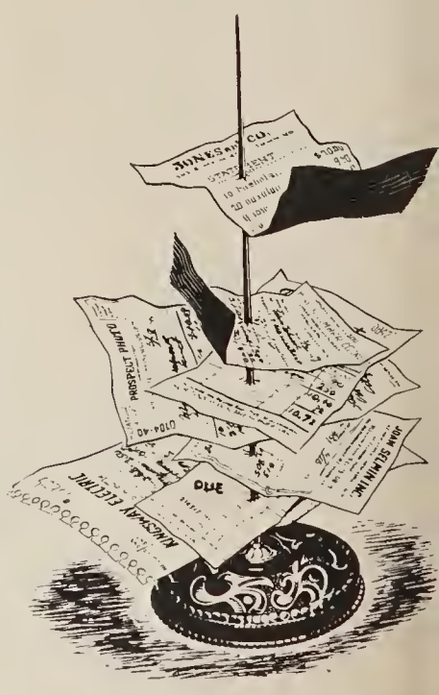
Incorrect credit code numbe When a charge is made by a custon who does not have his card with him, sales clerk must call the office for credit number. An office worker m give the number of a customer with similar name or may misread number or may not write it down corre ly.

Incorrectly prepared sales slip When a price is incorrectly written the sales receipt, an error may occur.

Misinterpreted marking on a sal slip: A dollar mark may be placed b fore the total price on a sales slip. Th could be misread for a number.

Mathematical errors: Errors in mu tiplication and addition can occur.

Undelivered merchandise: Ite that have been purchased but not deli ered may be included in a bill.



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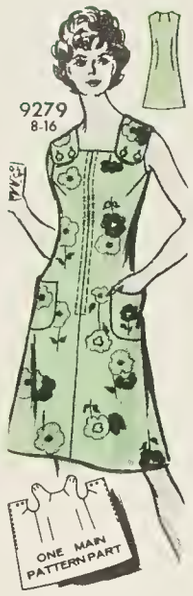
Fashion Favorites



Pattern No. 9104 is cut in girls' sizes 2, 4, 6, and 8.
Pattern No. 9001 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18.
Pattern No. 9279 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16.
Pattern No. 9134 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16, and 18.
Pattern No. 9377 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, and 20½.

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Country Kitchen

BANANA MEAT LOAF

This month's recipe is submitted by Mrs. Ethel Carlton of Triplett. It has a bit of the exotic to it which her family loves, and which doesn't take any extra time or expense to prepare.

The Triplett family is served by Blue Ridge EMC.

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share through this column, send it to: Brenda Sargent, Kitchen Corner, 3333 N. Boulevard, Raleigh, N.C. 27604. Tell us something about the recipe and any helpful tips that you have discovered in preparing it, your family and the name of the EMC that serves you. We pay $5 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. Ethel Carlton, Triplett, N.C.

BANANA MEAT LOAF

1 lb. raw beef, chopped fine
1 Tbs. chopped onion
2 tsp. salt
⅛ tsp. pepper
1 cup soft bread crumbs
⅔ cup mashed banana (2 bananas)
½ tsp. dry mustard
3 peeled bananas, cut lengthwise into halves

Mix together the meat, onion, salt, pepper, bread crumbs, and mashed banana. Add mustard which has been moistened with a little water. Form mixture into a flat roll and place in a greased baking dish. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees), basting occasionally with juice from meat. When loaf has baked about 45 minutes, place banana halves around and on top of loaf. Baste bananas with juice from meat and sprinkle with salt. Continue baking for about 15 to 20 minutes longer or until bananas are done. This makes six servings.

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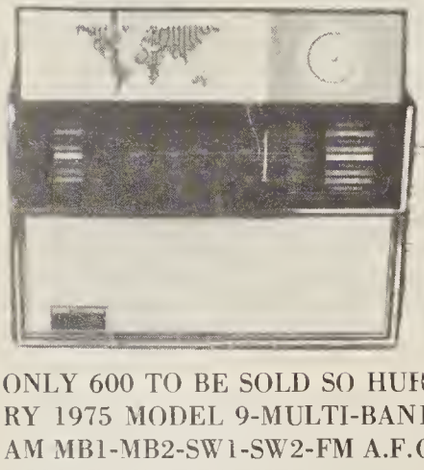

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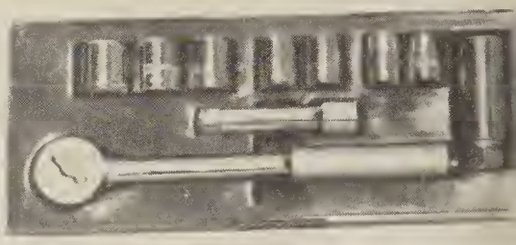

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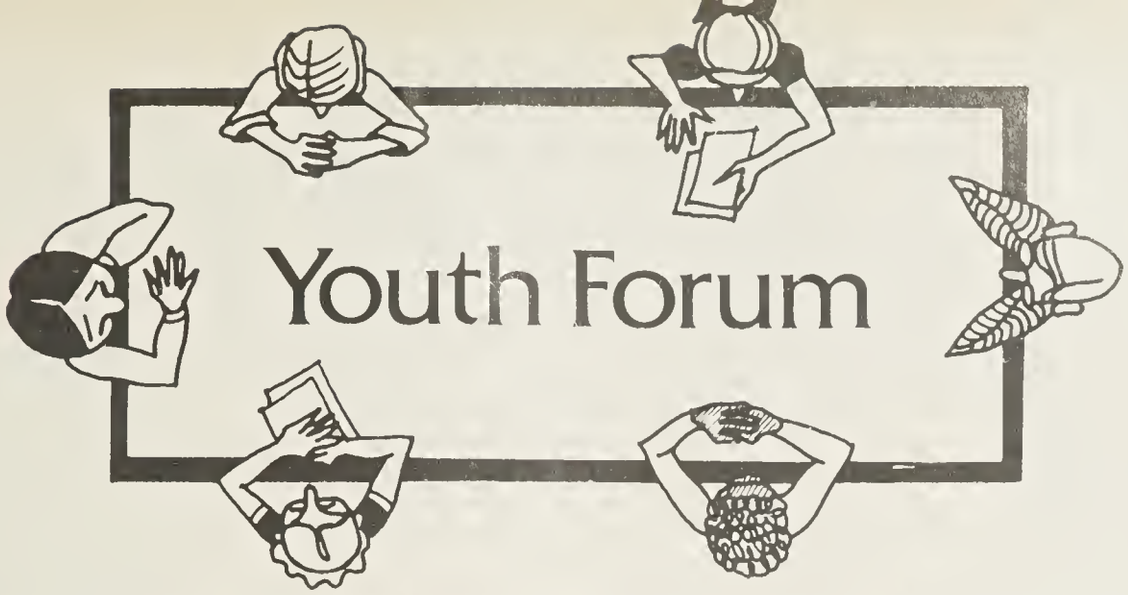


"HOW CAN WE AS INDIVIDUALS HELP KEEP VIOLENCE OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS?"

"Racial and social problems are found in every school. If people could be less prejudiced, maybe many problems could be solved before they start. Each student should be more open-minded in regard to his or her fellow students. Rivalry can lead to violent feelings if the person cannot accept failure. To reduce the violence in school, each person should try to be a better sport. If someone causes you harsh or hurt feelings, you should overlook it and not dwell on the incident. Students who are constantly resorting to violence for satisfaction are either insecure or immature. Many children take after their parents. If a parent is violent and gives the child a license or permit to be like them, the child will not mature properly. This leads to crime and maladjustment, which can lead to imprisonment or suicide."

Connie Smith
Morganton

Connie is 16 and a junior at Freedom High School. She enjoys music and drama. Connie and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conly N. Smith, are served by Rutherford EMC.

"The only way to solve this problem is to get involved, if you're tired of someone always ripping off your posessions, or tired of watching fights, etc., you must keep a watchful eye to help prevent this. Remember the next time you see someone steal, see a fight, etc., report it. If we the people don't report violent acts that we witness, we the people shouldn't complain when some violent act confronts us."

Kim White
Windsor

Kim is 14 and attends Bertie Junior High School. He enjoys reading, typing, and studying French. Kim and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard White, are served by Roanoke EMC.

"One way is to not invite it. We as students sometimes tend to carry chips on our shoulders. And others who stick by you are willing to go along with whatever you do in order to prove themselves. It takes a lot more courage to back down from troublemakers than it does to prove yourself worthy as a fighter. And remember that violence in most cases isn't the answer but it can lead to more difficult problems in the end. A problem not worth solving is not worth having in the first place.

Barbara McPhail
Clinton

Barbara is 15 and a sophomore at Lakewood High School. Her hobbies include drawing, poetry, basketball, softball, volleyball, and tennis. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Freddie McPhail, are served by South River EMC.

"Violent students are usually students who cannot cope with reality and must find a way to release their emotions. When we reject a person because he is an individual, we are contributing to the possibility of violence. If we take a special interest in people, they feel more at ease in society. We cannot cope with all people, but if each person helps, there is a chance for peace to dawn."

Joy King
Wake Forest

Joy is 13 and a seventh-grader at Wake Forest - Rolesville Junior High. Her hobbies include sewing, horseback riding, and collecting sea shells. Her grandmother, Mrs. Bessie Hagwood, is served by Wake EMC.

NEXT QUESTION: "What should parents do about their children who begin drinking alcohol at an early age?"

This question was submitted by Patricia Robinson of Tar Heel. She is 13 and attends Plain View School. Patricia enjoys flowers. She and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Robinson, are served by Four County EMC.

If you have a good answer, send it to YOUTH FORUM, Carolina Country, 3333 North Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27604 immediately. Tell us a few facts about yourself — your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you $5. If you want to submit a question, send it along and for each one used, the sender will receive a $5 check.

(Above, left) Alton P. Wall, manager of Randolph EMC and Rep. Richardson Preyer. (Above) Gordon S. Becton, vice-president of N.C. EMC; David Hamil, REA Administrator; and Hugh A. Wells, N.C. EMC vice president and general counsel. (Left) Robert N. Cleveland, N.C. EMC executive vice president, and Senator Robert Morgan.

(Below) Rep. L.H. Fountain, Floyd J. Lupton of Rep. Walter B. Jones' office, R.E. Pendergrass and L.P. Beverage of Four County EMC, Charles O. Whitley of Rep. David Henderson's office and C.D. Branch and Robert G. Hubbard of Brunswick EMC.

Rural Electric Leaders Visit Capital

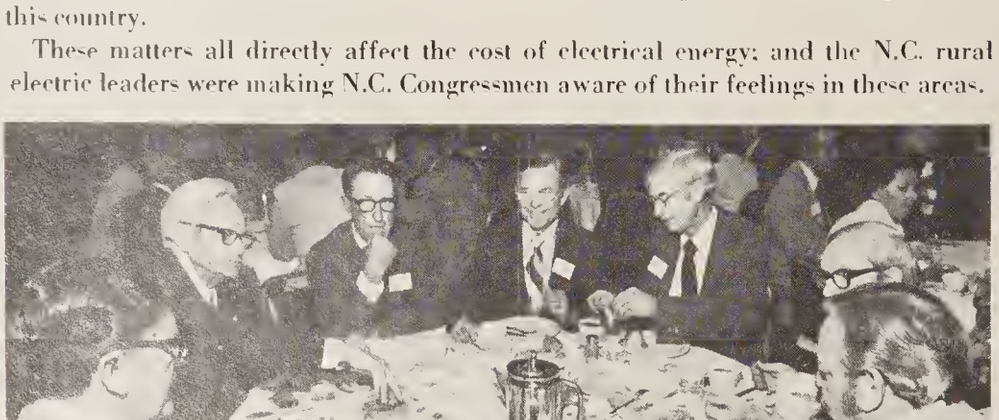
Over 60 North Carolina rural electric leaders attended a three-day Rural Electrie Rally in Washington, D.C., May 12-14.

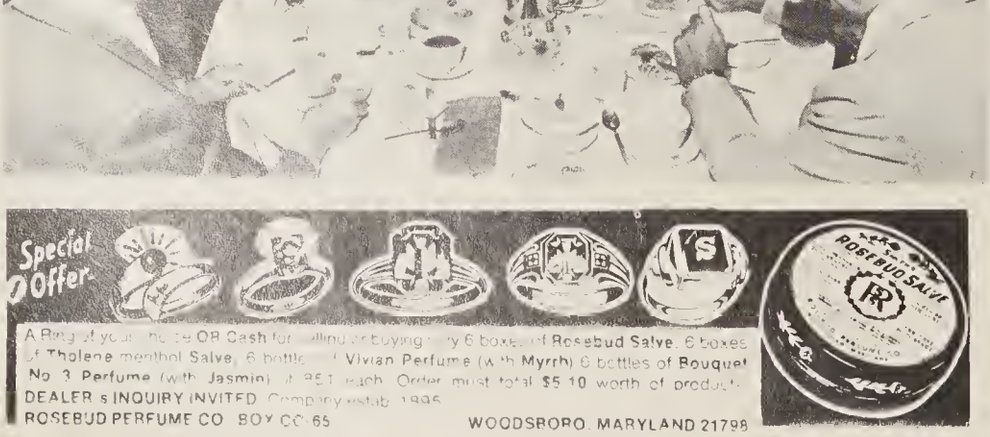
The rally, which was headquartered at the Mayflower hotel, brought key cooperative staff, managers and directors from all over the United States to talk with their representatives in Congress about the rural electric program.

The North Carolina group spent their time visiting their congressmen and senators, discussing critieal legislation on the energy crisis.

The legislative issues before Congress at present are the financing for 1976 of the REA insured elcetric loan program; the Clean Air Act and Federal Coal Land Leasing; and the need for continued research and development of nuclar power in this country.

These matters all directly affect the cost of electrical energy; and the N.C. rural electric leaders were making N.C. Congressmen aware of their feelings in these areas.

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FULL COLOR COVER PRINTS

Carolina Country is offering f color reprints of the beautiful wat color beach scene which grac the cover of the May issue of magazine.

The original painting was done Durham artist Nancy May especi for *Carolina Country*.

Ms. May has been study watercolor privately for the past f years and has developed her st through actual experience at coast. She has exhibited in seve one-woman shows in Raleigh, Ch el Hill and Pawley's Island, S.C.

The reprints of the painting printed on quality paper with a bo er, making them suitable for fram without additional matting. Th measure 11" x 14". Each print signed by the artist. Only $5.00, cluding tax and mailing costs.

Use the handy coupon or sim write to:

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Please send me _____ color prin of the May *Carolina Country* cover pi ture. I enclose a check or money ord for $ _____. ($5.00 per print)

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Each $3.00 2 for $3.01

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- SOFTER
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A mildly scented luxury soap that contains cold cream. Nothing could be more lovely for the complexion or the bath. Replaces the natural oils and leaves your skin completely clean, satin-smooth and soft. What a lovely gift idea to give to any woman . . . in a beautifully decorated gift box.

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Softens and perfumes your bath water. Leaves your skin satin-smooth, soft and fragrant. Delightfully luxurious and relaxing. Works in hard water, also. Increases the efficiency of your bath soap.

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Minus-10 Beauty Creme No. 315 4 oz.

Your skin can make you look older. Now Minus-10 Beauty Creme works wonders by bringing back the smooth, soft look you were so proud of a few years ago. Remember: it's not how old you are, but how young you look. Send for Minus-10 Beauty Creme today. You must be completely satisfied with your first application or full refund.

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	Luxury Cold Cream Soap—No. 312	$1.60	4 cakes for $1.61	
	Bubble Bath—No. 301	$1.70	2-16 Oz. Bottles $1.71	
	Minus-10 Beauty Creme—No. 315	$5.00	2-4 Oz. Jars $5.01	
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What They've Done (or haven't done) For You Lately

By Spencer Carter

Critics of the 1975 General Assembly have charged it has been a "do nothing" session, with much talk and little positive action. Senators and representatives say there has been no money to expand present programs or create new ones.

House Speaker James C. Green says budget difficulties have made the 1975 body "by far the hardest working session I've experienced in eight terms."

Certainly it has been a busy one. More than 2,000 bills have been proposed in the House or Senate. Sen. Luther J. Britt, Robeson, chairman of the Judiciary II Committee, says his group has handled more than 200 bills, more than both the 1973 and 1974 sessions combined.

Diversity of Subjects

Britt says there has been a greater diversification of subjects and interests than ever before, including consumer interest, especially in the field of energy and public utilities. The legislature has considered more than 60 bills concerning utilities, more than 15 on consumerism, and more than 50 bearing on agriculture.

A mortgage foreclosure bill, Britt says, is "one of the more important pieces of legislation to come out of this body." Prior to the ratification of this bill, mortgage holders were required only to advertise foreclosure proceedings in a newspaper, without directly notifying the property holder. A person delinquent in making house payments, for example, could find his house sold by the mortgage company without his knowledge under the old law. Now mortgage holders must go through a court of law to foreclose.

Another item of consumer interest is a liberal lien law that gives a person the right to reclaim his property without waiting for judicial action on the case. If a person has a dispute with an auto mechanic over a bill, for example, he no longer must wait for the return of his car until after the matter is settled in court.

Now he has two options. He may pay the amount of the bill to the Clerk of Superior Court. If judgment is found in his favor, the money is returned. Or he may post a bond of twice the amount claimed due. The auto must be relinquished the owner after either action.

House of Representatives in Session

An auto insurance bill that would ha required motorists to carry $1,000 cov age against medical losses, in addition the present liability insurance. w killed in the House Insurance Subco mittee. Opponents of the measure, whi had been called a limited "no fault" b said the proposed legislation offe nothing worthwhile.

Interest Rate Bill

A finance interest rate bill now all lenders to charge up to 36 per cent on first $300 of loans up to $1500.

It is money and budget problems t has been foremost in the thoughts of l islators this session.

Expected state revenues fell short $288 million due to a decrease in sa and auto taxes received during the l quarter of 1974. Although there is eight per cent increase in revenues o 1973, Sen. Thomas E. Strickland, Wayne, says double digit inflation l negated that gain and that "we're givi bills closer scrutiny this year than e before." Rep. R.C. Soles, D-Columb agrees.

Holding On

"I think we've probably worked har under more difficulties than other s sions due to budget problems," he sa "Rather than passing new bold legis tion, we've been trying to hold on what we have."

Legislators say this session has k them busier than before due in part increased public interest and better pr coverage.

"You can pass something today a the next morning you have telegra

d letters all over your desk," Strick-
nd says. "I get more questions now
an ever before. There are over 200 lob-
ists here representing special interests.
"Scandals in government have awak-
ed people," Strickland says. "I think
e better informed citizens have decided
ey'd better wake up and take part."

ERA

The issue that probably created the
eatest public response was the Equal
ghts Amendment to the Constitution.
iling in the House on the third reading
a vote of 62 to 57, the measure at
nes generated heated controversy be-
een opponents and proponents.
Rep. P.C. Collins, D-Alleghany, says
ter voting for ratification on the sec-
d reading, his office was flooded with
ephone calls and telegrams from con-
tuents opposed to passage. He voted
" on the third reading, when the bill
s defeated.
I've had more communications with
constituents than in my three pre-
us session," he says. "I represent the
hes of the people so long as I feel they
e enough information to make a
gment."

Letters and Postcards

etters and postcards from constituents
uence him more than petitions,
lins says, adding that "you can get
body to sign a petition for just about
thing."
p. Richard Erwin, D-Forsyth, a new
ber of the General Assembly and
of six blacks in that body, says the
plexity of issues and the enormous
unt of informative input from
us interests make the passage of
difficult.
'm a little surprised that we come out
as good laws as we do," Erwin says.

Bills of Interest To EMC Members

Eminent Domain — ratified. Allows EMCs the right to condemn property for the construction of facilities. Before, this authority was held by the N.C. Rural Electrification Authority, through which EMCs requested such action when necessary. This bill was necessary for possible future EMC generating plants and transmission lines.

Electric Bill Payment Longer — tabled in committee. Would have extended the time allowed in which to pay a utility bill before being disconnected, and would have required notice of disconnection by certified mail. Opponents of the bill said ratification would result in higher rates or bankruptcy for some small utilities with a high turnover of customers. It was feared that under the proposed bill many transient customers could have service continued for several months without paying for it, then leave the service area with a high unpaid bill. Testimony given stated that the Jones-Onslow EMC lost nearly $60,000 in 1974 and "that this amount could triple under this legislation." The certified mail requirement was opposed on the grounds that a debtor could refuse to accept a bill sent by certified mail and that the additional postage required would range into may thousands of dollars.

Directors Pay — ratified. Allows directors to set their own pay. Prior to this bill, directors were allowed up to $30 per day.

Utility Commission Expansion — ratified. Increases the number of commissioners from five to seven members and allows them to sit in panels of three. In a related bill, the commission is required to hold hearings on fuel adjustment clauses at least every 90 days. While the commission does not determine how much EMCs must pay for wholesale power, it does set territories serviced, and regulates new power plant construction.

Copper Purchase Restriction — ratified. Requires scrap metal dealers to keep records of copper purchases of 20 pounds or more and to keep this record open to the public. A permit is required for a person to haul 20 pounds or more of copper unless that person is regularly employed in the hauling of such material. The aim of the bill is to discourage copper theft, the material used extensively in power wires.

A member of the House Corrections committee, Erwin says he is pleased that a number of bills failed that the feels were "punitive" in nature. One of those allowed a prison sentence of five years for assaulting a judge.

"If a judge hits me, he gets 30 days maximum," Erwin says. "I have been cautious of voting for things that would take away the rights of the people."

Erwin says his being black in a predominantly white General Assembly has presented no problems. His fellow members of the House are interested in listening to "good information," he says — not the color of his skin.

Critics say the legislature has been more interested in listening to special interest groups — banks, insurance companies, small-loan companies and the dairy industry — than in responding to the needs of the average citizen.

Consumer Advocates

Consumer advocates cite the failure of a no-fault auto insurance bill, a landlord-tenant bill, and tax reform, especially in the area of sales tax repeal. Some legislators counter that the repeal of a fair trade law, which forced manufacturers to set retail prices, is in the interest of the consumer since somewhat lower retail prices may be the outcome. A bill which allows a state income tax deduction for child care was also ratified.

Whether it was a "do nothing" session as critics charge, or whether it was a session hamstrung by money problems, it is now history. Historians can debate the problems and productivity of the 1975 General Assembly, but the final reckoning will come for the people of North Carolina — come election time.

Farm Family of the Year

The Charles C. Tann family of Northampton County has proved that rags to riches stories are not oddities of the past.

Although the Tanns were never literally in rags, in 1954 this farm family's net worth was $350. They owned a brood sow, a cow, two pigs, an outdated tractor and equipment, the bare necessities of household goods — and a debt of more than $1,000.

Through loans and counseling from the Farmers Home Administration — and their own hard work — the Tanns grew to a net worth estimated at more than $50,000 in 1974. Other assets earned through the years are eight children, two sons-in-law, and a grandchild.

This accomplishment earned the Tanns designation as North Carolina's Farmers Home Administration Farm Family of the Year.

Nearly 400 agricultural leaders, state and local officials, and friends of the family attended a banquet in Raleigh honoring the Tanns. U.S. Secretary of agriculture Earl Butz appeared briefly to present a plaque to the family.

Butz said the function of the Department of Agriculture is to "help people at the grass roots of America lead a fuller and more satisfying life."

"This is America at its best . . . America helping somebody who's not afraid to work," Butz said.

Rep. L.H. Fountain, (D-N.C.), who represents the Tanns as 2nd District Congressman, praised the family for following the "farming tradition — a tradition upon which this country was founded and upon which its very existence was based for so long."

Tann told the crowd, "I've always said I like to have my flowers while I am living, and this is the most beautiful bouquet I have ever seen." He thanked the FmHA and its Northampton County employees for their advice and help with loans.

Although the family is now well-off, with all but one of the Tanns' five older children going to college, nurses' training, or technical school, getting there has been a struggle.

Serious illnesses in the family left big hospital bills to be paid. One year's entire tobacco crop was lost in a barn fire. During another year, a $20,000 peanut crop could not be harvested because of wet weather. Bad weather in another year cost them $8,000 in peanuts.

Although discouraged, the family persevered, continuing to work hard, seeking advice, and paying their bills. The worst year for their peanut crop, 1971, was also the year they began a hog operation of 75 brood sows — a new venture in their county.

Aside from the farming operation, the Tanns are involved in community affairs. They are a tightly-knit family that has found success through a joint effort.

"Farming is one business which no single man can successfully handle by himself," said Rep. L.H. Fountain said. "It needs a family which works together, where the children respect their parents and all they stand for."

James T. Johnson, state FmHA director, said the Tanns are among the top five contenders for the national FmHA farm family award.

The Tann Family — Left to right, back row: Kenny Tann, Stanley Frazier (son-in-law), Judy Tann, Gary Tann, C.C. Tann Jr., Barbara Ann Tann, Pamela Tann, Harry Washington (son-in-law). Seated: Claudette T. Frazier, Mrs. Tann with grandaughter Tiffany Frazier, Mr. Tann and Perquida T. Washington.

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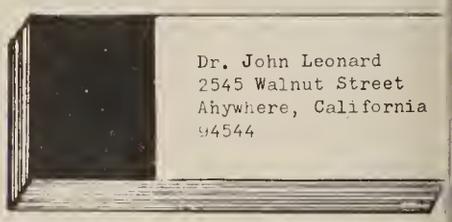

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A Comeback for King Cotton?

By Frank Roberts

King Cotton may make a comeback in
e Chowan County area, thanks to a co-
perative insect control program organ-
ed by the county's farmers.

The program, which was inaugurated
March, 1974, helped the farmers pro-
uce "an outstanding crop" last year,
cording to Murray L. Goodwin,
howan County agriculture extension
ent who has been pushing for a
vival of cotton as a crop.

And those results were achieved des-
te a large amount of early fall rain,
oodwin said.

More and more farmland in the
owan area is being devoted to cotton,
th its bolls and blooms — the crop
ich once covered Northeastern North
rolina fields in the days when labor
s cheap and plentiful.

While 1974's cotton crop did not rival
nuts, vegetables, tobacco or soybeans,
re acreage was devoted to it than had
n in several years, Goodwin noted.

About 1,200 acres were devoted to cot-
, grown by about 40 of the county's
0 farmers. Some of those fields pro-
ed an average of two bales an acre,
d Pete Thompson, Chowan's exten-
n chairman.

I think we will have about 2,000
es eventually," said Charles Over-
n, who retired as extension chairman
1969. "When I came here in 1941 we
l about 4,500 acres of cotton. It was
n to 2,000 when I retired and it
tinued to decline after that," he said.

here were several reasons for the
's decline. One was lack of man-
er to harvest it, another was the low
e it was bringing, and farmers felt
other crops were more profitable
less trouble.

t Goodwin feels that Chowan's soil
ore suitable to cotton than to some of
other crops being raised in the
nty.

e have sandy soil, which is not as
suited to corn and soybeans as it is
tton and watermelons," he said.

an effort to improve production, the
ty's farmers banded together to form
Chowan County Cotton Insect
agement Group, spearheaded by
ard Small, who doubles as a cotton
er and farm-produce dealer.

"We pay together for spraying work, so we are able to buy the ingredients at a lower price than usual, and pay less for the spray plane that does the work," he said.

Farmers who own mechanical cotton pickers often share them with others who don't.

Farmers that were able to get at least a 1½-bale yield "were able to make some money," Thompson said.

It took one bale per acre to break even at last fall's price of about 50 cents a pound.

"It cost a farmer about $175 per acre to produce cotton and about $50 per bale to pick it. They were able to sell it for about $275 per bale," Thompson said.

And because of better growing practices than in 1973, the cotton crop last year yielded a 150 per cent increase. Small said.

"We tried cotton off and on before without much success," he said. "But organization of the insect-management group and the resultant spraying program was the answer to one of our biggest problems. Growers in years past often did a poor job of dusting and spraying," Overman said.

Those efforts are usually aimed at the boll weevil, a small insect that meant death to many cotton crops in the past.

But the necessary spraying and dusting, some agricultural officials feel, is one of the reasons cotton will never become as popular as it once was.

"Vegetables, soybeans, peanuts, and most other crops are a lot less trouble, and many of them are more profitable," Overman said.

Nevertheless, Goodwin is continuing his efforts to interest more farmers in his area to return to cotton.

Agents in some of those neighboring counties, however, have expressed disinterest.

"We are a hog and peanut county. Those are our money crops," said Zackie Harrell, Gates County extension chairman. "Also, we don't have the machinery here. Our farmers have the equipment and storage facilities for what they are growing now. I don't see them giving that up."

The story is the same in Perquimans County, where "we don't have the soil," according to Richard Bryant, extension chairman there. "Farmers here are out of the habit of planting cotton. I don't see them coming back to it."

Glenn Toomey, a cotton extension specialist at North Carolina State University, said the state has 53,000 cotton farms with 293,000 acres of allotment.

However, only about 165,000 of those acres are under production.

Nationally, just over 12.7 million acres are devoted to cotton. The four major cotton growing states are Texas, Mississippi, California and Arkansas.

Projections call for U.S. cotton production to decline in 1975 by as much as half the 1974 level.

With that thought in mind, and the knowledge that there is an increasing demand for cotton, Goodwin feels that the time is ripe for the crop to return as an important Albemarle area farm product.

"We have the insect-management group, and cotton can fare better than some other crops in our soil," he said. "It can be a moneymaking crop."

Chowan County Agent Murray Goodwin, left, and Leonard Small

Roberts of Hertford is a reporter for
orfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Consumer News

This article has been prepared by the North Carolina State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. If you have a complaint or information about unfair or deceptive trade practices notify the Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 629, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602.

The Consumer Protection Division recently filed suit against operators of a business which offered farmers certain discounts on machinery.

Numerous Eastern North Carolina farmers had been approached by Robert C. Dove and his son, Carey Dove, of Wilmington about becoming members of a "collective buying plan" designed to lower prices for implements.

The Doves, who had several such programs operating at once under different names, promoted the group buying plan as a method of eliminating the middleman (retailer) by buying direct from manufacturers.

Membership fees, set at $300 each, were paid by many farmers. The plan, as presented, appeared to be reasonable and sound.

But when farmers attempted to purchase equipment, their orders were diverted for various reasons.

Dove, his son, or their representatives told the farmers certain machinery or equipment was not available from the factory, or that prices would be higher than anticipated.

Some merchandise, such as storage bins and silos, was delivered, but not as ordered. For instance, some of the items lacked special features requested in the orders, or were smaller than desired.

Then, group members began comparing costs on the retail market and learned that they were not getting lower prices as promised.

When complaints were forwarded to the Consumer Protection Division, Division, Attorney General Rufus Edmisten directed personnel to investigate immediately.

Based on a probe by Special Agent Doug Kearns, the suit was filed. The Attorney General, in the suit, asks that the court order the Doves to refund the membership money to the farmers, and that the plan's organizers discontinue the allegdly deceptive practices.

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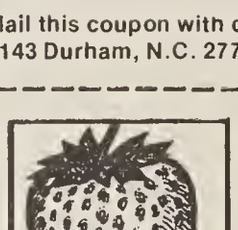

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